



CUSTOMS & QUARANTINE AGENCY, GUAM

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Director's Office

*Acting Director of Customs – Eric M. Palacios
Chief of Customs – Vincent S.N. Perez*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 8, 2018

Agriculture Canine Unit Recertified by USDA

BARRIGADA, GUAM – The Customs and Quarantine Agency's Agriculture Canine Unit (ACU) has passed the annual U.S. Department of Agriculture recertification process.

For the past two weeks six teams within the ACU were tested by two USDA training specialists of the USDA's National Detector Dog Training Center, Mr. James G. Mason and Mr. Earl D. Jones, to recertify in two fields, airport and cargo operations. This annual recertification process occurs to ensure the unit meets standards set by the USDA when enforcing USDA regulations. The teams were observed for method, training and proficiency when handling their k-9 counterpart. Each of the six teams passed.



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The ACU is seizing approximately 27% more in FY2018 than it did in FY2017 determined by comparing the rate at which the unit seized prohibited agricultural products in both years. At this time last year, FY2017, the ACU seized approximately 1,217.7 lbs. of prohibited agricultural products and from the start of FY2018 to current the unit has seized approximately 1,547.4 lbs. This number will continue to increase as the fiscal year comes to a close.

Prior to becoming an Ag. K-9 handler with the CQA, officers are selected and assigned to attend the USDA Detector Dog Training Center in Newnan, Georgia for about ten weeks of training.

CQA's ACU was named the Agency's Unit of the Year for two years straight.

For more information, please contact our Public Information Officer Ms. Jessi Santos-Torres at (671) 475-6202 or email Jessi.Santos-Torres@cqa.guam.gov.

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